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Branson Multifamily Community 1st in SW Missouri & 3rd in State to Earn EPA's ENERGY STAR® Certification for Superior Energy Efficiency

BRANSON (September 20, 2016) – The multifamily community known as Turtle Creek Apartments in Branson, Missouri is the first of its kind to earn the prestigious ENERGY STAR certification in Southwest Missouri, and only the third in the state of Missouri. The EPA ENERGY STAR certification is earned by commercial buildings that use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR certification recognizes those properties that perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set forth by the EPA. As of September 2, 2016, the EPA certified Turtle Creek Apartments as an ENERGY STAR property that meets such aggressive performance standards, signifying that all seven of its multifamily dwellings and Clubhouse have met the EPA ENERGY STAR certification criteria, ranking the community in the top 25 percent of similar performers across America.

"Sustainability is very important to us and we embrace opportunities to contribute to the longevity of our planet," says Michael Pinkley of Turtle Creek. "It is a true honor to accept EPA's ENERGY STAR certification in recognition of Turtle Creek Apartments' energy efficiency efforts. Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering our community's energy costs. We're extremely proud to become one of only three multifamily properties in Missouri and the first in SW Missouri to earn the Energy Star certification."

Turtle Creek Apartments improved its energy performance by managing energy strategically across the entire organization and by making cost-effective improvements to its building(s). By making improvements in areas such as: building envelope air infiltration reduction, improved insulation and sound attenuation at all demising walls, insulated floors, insulated siding, high efficiency heating and cooling systems, thermal pane windows/patio doors, energy-efficient LED lighting upgrades and energy efficient appliances, the EPA report shows that Turtle Creek Apartments prevents greenhouse gas emissions equal to:

Electricity use from 45.1 households for a year	707 barrels of oil consumed
64.5 Passenger vehicles driven for one year	1.6 railcars' worth of coal burned
96.9 tons of waste recycled instead of land-filled	10,826 Incandescent lamps switched to LEDS
34,365 gallons of gasoline consumed	

“Improving the energy efficiency of our nation’s buildings is critical to protecting our environment,” said Jean Lupinacci, Chief of the ENERGY STAR Commercial & Industrial Branch. “From the boiler room to the board room, organizations are leading the way by making their buildings more efficient and earning EPA’s ENERGY STAR certification.”

When asked about the importance of developing energy-efficient commercial properties, Branson’s City Administrator Bill Malinen said “Being a community that values its natural resources, we take city-wide sustainability very seriously considering everything from our excellent water quality, clean air initiatives, and even our innovative biosolids waste treatment facility that transforms Class-B solid waste to a pathogen-free Class-A biosolid to preserve the quality of our soil which ultimately ensures the ground water runoff into our water shed is free of contaminants. We are proud to honor and support sustainability-minded entities that are equally as passionate to ensure a sustainable community, creating energy efficient dwellings for our citizens as done at the Turtle Creek community.”

To learn more about the EPA ENERGY STAR certification for Commercial Buildings, visit: <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings>

For more information about Turtle Creek Apartments, visit: www.turtlecreekbranson.com

Sustainability initiatives undertaken by the City of Branson may be found by visiting: www.bransonmo.gov

ABOUT THE EPA ENERGY STAR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

EPA’s ENERGY STAR energy performance scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a 75 or higher on EPA’s 1-100 scale may be eligible for ENERGY STAR certification. Commercial buildings that can earn the ENERGY STAR include offices, bank branches, data centers, financial centers, retail stores, courthouses, hospitals, hotels, K-12 schools, medical offices, supermarkets, dormitories, houses of worship, and warehouses.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 65 different kinds of products, 1.4 million new homes, and 20,000 commercial buildings and industrial plants that meet strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the EPA. Over the past twenty years, American families and businesses have saved more than \$230 billion on utility bills and prevented more than 1.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions with help from ENERGY STAR.

